



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

June 1, 2009

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senate
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2003

Dear Senator Mikulski:

I want to give you a heads-up about an issue in the Conference for the Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Bill which will take place later this week.

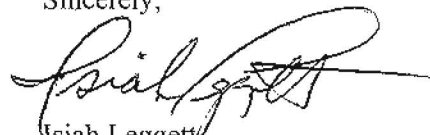
Apparently, the bill as currently drafted deletes funding for the construction of a new gymnasium at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. While this gym was not included in the original BRAC expansion plans at NNMC, it became necessary when the Navy received a generous offer from the Fisher Foundation's Intrepid Center to construct, and then donate to the Navy, a \$75 million Center of Excellence for Traumatic Brain Injury at the NNMC Campus.

This project is a huge benefit to the Navy and, more important, to the men and women of our Armed Forces – Army, Navy, Marine & Air Force – who are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with significant traumatic brain injuries. An old gymnasium sits on the best site for this building, so a new gym must be constructed elsewhere on the campus. Constructing a new gymnasium is a small price to pay in order to accommodate the new Intrepid TBI Center of Excellence, which is being donated at a significant savings to the Dept. of Defense.

Montgomery County supports the BRAC mission establishing the world-class Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda. While our main priority continues to be ensuring that the transportation network surrounding the campus will serve the dramatic growth BRAC is bringing to the NNMC campus, the County also believes strongly that the addition of the Intrepid TBI Center will enhance the BRAC mission. Therefore, Montgomery County supports the request to fund the construction of the new gymnasium to accommodate the addition of the Intrepid TBI Center.

Thank you for your attention in this most important matter.

Sincerely,


Isiah Leggett
County Executive



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June 1, 2009

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United States Senate
503 Hart Senate Office Building
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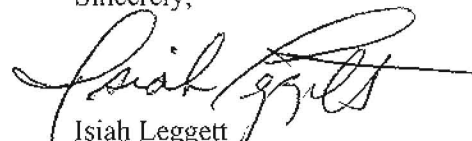
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